

AXBRIDGE UNION  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dr. A. V. LECHE,

Medical Officer of Health.

To The Librarian

British Medical Association, Elmcroft,

Axbridge, R. S. C.,

Somerset,

Dear Sir I beg to present my annual

Report for 1910

Yours faithfully

attached

note.

Feb 1911

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### Of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to the AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

#### Dr. Leche's Reference to the North Marsh Water Supply.

The annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to the Axbridge Rural District Council were presented at the meeting of that authority on Friday, as follows:—

##### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Elm Croft, Axbridge, R.S.O.,  
Somerset,

January, 1911.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report for 1910.

Area, 93,252 acres.  
Population, 23,744 (census 1901); 24,965 (census 1891); 24,363 (estimated to middle of January, 1909); average number of persons per house at 1901 census, 6.

Birth-rate, per 1,000 living, 19.0; previous 10 years, 19.75.

Death-rate, per 1,000 living, 11.0; ditto, 19.75.

Rate of infant mortality, 64.3; ditto, 65.8.

Cases of notifiable disease, 2.8 per 1,000 of the population.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—Cases notified, 70; diphtheria, 30; erysipelas, 19; scarlatina, 18; enteric, 2; puerperal fever, 1; phthisis, 24. The above were all sporadic cases, no serious localised outbreak or spreading occurring. Sanitary advice was given in cases of phthisis, disinfectant supplied where necessary and the houses disinfected. The disinfection of clothes and bedding is efficiently carried out in the steam disinfectory at Worle laundry. All infectious diseases are visited during their course, sanitary advice given, and the necessary disinfectants and printed instructions supplied. Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by the Council. Individual schools were closed for mumps, whooping cough and measles.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Generally from wells and streams. The South Marsh supply and that of Cheddar, Axbridge and Highbridge is satisfactory in quantity and quality. A water supply for the North Marsh has been determined on, and is about to be provided. Provision has been made for an increased and more certain supply of water for Winscombe during the summer and dry periods.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.**—Privies and cess-pools in general use. An important sewer has been laid in Cheddar and one in Axbridge relaid and covered. The sewer at Wrington has given serious trouble owing to the heavy rainfall causing powerful springs to burst up the pipes and flood the sewer. This has the constant attention of the Council, and their expert engineer, but it is to be hoped there may be no recurrence.

**REFUSE DISPOSAL.**—No systematic collection in any part of the district.

**HOUSING.**—Fairly satisfactory considering the extreme age of many houses, though cottages are getting scarce.

**COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**—One.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—Constantly inspected. Three hundred are on the register sending milk to towns. Two tubercular cows destroyed.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—One condemned and abandoned; frequently inspected; fairly well kept.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**—There are only three factories, and these small. The Worle laundry, Cheddar laundry, and the shirt and blouse factory are all well conducted. There are no underground bakehouses or offensive trades, and all the numerous small workshops are satisfactory.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. LECHE,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### REPORT OF INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Several inspections (4) have been made in Worle of the steam laundry; it is well conducted and the sanitary arrangements satisfactory, and no complaint has arisen; so also with regard to the small shirt and washing factory at Cheddar, and the blouse-making establishment there. There are no underground bakehouses in the district, and all the bakeries are well conducted. There are numerous houses and cottages where sewing and washing are done; sometimes one or two assistants are employed to help, varying with the amount of work to be done. All are satisfactory.

No complaint has been made of any and no infectious disease has occurred in any during 1910. The housing of the working classes is becoming short. All the above are inspected. The carpenters' and blacksmiths' workshops and breweries are satisfactory. In fact the working class of the district is fairly prosperous and well cared for, and no sweating occurs.

A. V. LECHE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The report of Mr. H. M. TEEK, the Sanitary Inspector, was as follows:—  
To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District of Axbridge.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

**NEW HOUSES.**—During the year applications for water certificates were received from the owners of forty new houses. Each house was carefully inspected, the water supply examined, and in every case the provision was found to be satisfactory and the certificate granted.

**WATER SUPPLIES.**—Where schemes have been carried out, the supplies were ample. The public wells at Compton Bishop, Loxton and Shipham were cleaned and repaired. Samples were taken and submitted for analysis from Loxton and Winscombe. The report on the former was unsatisfactory, and the well was opened and cleaned. The latter was reported to be good. A well at Blackford was closed on account of the water being polluted and unfit for domestic use.

**SOUTH MARSH WATER METERS.**—There are 31 meters fixed. They were periodically examined and the readings recorded.

**HIGHBRIDGE METER.**—This meter was repaired and re-fixed in June last. It was examined once a month and recorded a daily average of 60,500 gallons.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—Thirty-seven rooms were fumigated and six sprayed with Izal after infectious cases. The West Mark schools were thoroughly disinfected. Since arrangements were made with the Steam Laundry Company, Worle, to disinfect bedding, etc., articles from three houses were removed, baked and returned.

**HOUSES CLEANSSED.**—Two houses found to be in a filthy condition were cleansed and lime-washed.

**NEW SEWERS.**—New sewers were laid at Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Cheddar, Churchill and Uphill, and existing sewers in many parishes in the district were cleaned and repaired.

**HOUSE DRAINS.**—During the year improvements were made to many houses by laying new drains or by cleaning and repairing old ones.

**NUISANCE FROM SMOKE.**—Only one complaint was received, and by request the owner of the property promptly made alterations and abated the nuisance.

#### Over-crowding.

**HOUSES OVER-CROWDED.**—Two cases of over-crowding were reported, and the number of inmates in each case reduced. This in many parishes is a difficult matter to deal with on account of the inability of people of the working-class with large families to obtain suitable homes.

**DISEASED MEAT.**—The carcasses of two animals badly affected with tuberculosis were destroyed.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—Nearly three hundred dairies and cowsheds were inspected, and, although some of the sheds were not as they should be, they were kept fairly clean and white-limed, and the water supplies to many were improved.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**—These were frequently inspected, and where white-liming was required it was promptly done. The hides and offal regularly removed.

**BAKE-HOUSES.**—Periodically inspected, and with one or two exceptions clean and well kept.

**COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**—Only two registered. They were inspected and found clean and well ventilated.

**NOTICES.**—Five notices were served and many letters requesting the abatement of nuisances written.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**—I am glad to report it has not been necessary to take proceedings in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction during the year.

I beg to remain, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. TEEK,

Inspector.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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